THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • FRIDAY • APRIL 16, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 32 • LATE CITY EDITION

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WPI INFLATION SHOOTS UP TO 8-YEAR HIGH OF 7.39% IN MARCH

Rising crude oil and metal prices pushed up the wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation in March, government data showed on Thursday

LOW BASE CONTRIBUTES TO SPIKE

WPI inflation was 4.17% in February 2021 and 0.42% in March 2020. The low base of March last year, when the data was computed with a low response rate due to the Covid lockdown, contributed to the spike in March 2021. This is the third straight month of increase in the WPI. The last time WPI showed such a high level was in October 2012, when inflation was 7.4%

DRIVEN BY OIL, METALS, CHEMICALS

- Inflation in the fuel and power basket was 10.25% in March, against 0.58% in February on higher fuel prices
- Icra Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the jump in WPI-inflation was driven by metals, textiles, chemicals, rubber, etc as many of them recorded large price increases globally in recent months | P13

32.1%

INFLATION OF CRUDE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS IN MARCH 2021

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

MUMBAI

AHMEDABAD

NEW DELHI

From left: Gateway of India in Mumbai wears a deserted look on Thursday; A Covid-19 patient is given an oxygen mask in an ambulance, outside the the Government Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad; A family member after performing the cremation of a Covid-19 victim at the Nigambodh Ghat in New Delhi | PTI

Daily count crosses 2 lakh, doubles in 10 days

Oxygen scarcity continues; Delhi overtakes Mumbai's single-day peak; Kumbh Mela may end soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE daily fresh Covid case count in the country shot past the 2-lakh mark on Thursday morning for the first time, amid reports of acute oxygen scarcity from various states. To get a sense of the unprecedented public health emergency staring India in the face, the country took just 10 days to double its active cases from 1 lakh to 2 lakh, while the US had taken more than 20 days in doubling to 2 lakh. And daily fatalities have crossed 1,000 since the last two days.

Many experts fear the current trend may push daily infections up for many days to come and the country may even surpass the highest daily infections of over 3 lakh registered in the US in early January.

Amid all the anxiety about the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Uttarakhand becoming a super spreader, there was some self-regulation as the Shri Panchayati Niranjani Akhada, one of the 13 participating akhadas, announced the conclusion of the mega event on April 17 instead of the scheduled May 8 in view of the pandemic.

A final call will be taken by the apex body of 13 akhadas, the Akhada Parishad. As many as 2,269 Covid cases have been detected so far in the mela area. With Delhi overtaking Mumbai's single-day peak (11,163 on April 4) by recording over 17,000 fresh cases, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a weekend curfew and the closure of malls, gymnasiums and auditoriums till April 30 as part of sweeping restrictions to break the chain.

Maharashtra stayed on top of the Covid chart with 61,695 fresh cases and 349 fatalities. As many as 36 lakh patients in the state are in home quarantine while 27,273 are under institutional quarantine.

With Uttar Pradesh recording 22,439 new cases and staying at second highest on the national list, the government decided to incrementally increase the time of night curfew. P9

NATIONWIDE

	APRIL 14	APRIL 15
Fresh cases	1,84,372	1,97,865
Recoveries	82,339	1,04,507
Deaths	1,027	1,019

14.7k New cases as K'taka sees another big jump

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

JUST a day after Karnataka saw its highest daily spike at 11,265 Covid-19 cases since the pandemic started in Karnataka on March 8 last year, the state beat its own record, adding a whopping 14,738 cases on Thursday. It registered a 1.34 per cent growth rate in the tally of Covid-19 patients, from 10,94,912 on Wednesday, to 11,09,650 on Thursday.

With this massive jump in cases, the positivity rate has shot up to 4.78 per cent from 4.75 per cent the previous day.

As against the massive number added cases, Thursday saw just 3,591 patients being discharged, contributing to consistently pushing down the recovery rate across the state.

STATE WIDE

	APRIL 14	APRIL 15
Fresh cases	11,265	14,738
Active cases	63,167	96,561
Deaths	38	66
Tally	78,795	1,14,890
Fresh cases in Bengaluru	8,155	10,497

CBI to probe cops who framed Nambi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Thursday accepted Justice D K Jain Committee's report on the lapses of Kerala Police officers in the ISRO spying case and asked the Centre to hand it over to the Central Bureau of Investigation for further probe.

A bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar asked the CBI to submit its report within three months and made it clear that the panel's report can't be made public or shared with anyone, including former ISRO scientist S Nambi Narayanan.

The court also clarified that the copies of the report can't be given even to officials named in it or in the petition. The bench directed the CBI to treat the Jain panel report as a preliminary inquiry report and proceed further.

Two-and-a-half-years after it was asked to look into the lapses on the part of the Kerala Police officers in wrongfully arresting Nambi Narayanan in 1994, the Jain Committee recently submitted its report to the apex in a sealed cover.

The panel probed the roles of police officers Siby Mathews, K K Joshua and S Vijayan in framing Narayanan. P7

Wipro to scale up hiring

BISMAH MALIK @Bengaluru

BENGALURU-BASED IT major Wipro, which on Thursday posted a 27.7 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,972 crore for the March 2021 quarter, will embark on a robust hiring plan, give skill-based bonuses and salary increments for senior employees after the adoption of a new operating model last quarter. Wipro CEO and Managing Director Thierry Delaporte said the company had announced salary increments and promotions, covering about 80 per cent of its employees, effective January 1, 2021, and that it will increase the wages of the remaining senior executives in June. FULL REPORT: P13

Down with fever, CM leaves roadshow midway

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi, Bengaluru

ON the last day of campaigning for the Belagavi Lok Sabha by-poll on Thursday, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, who was holding a roadshow for BJP candidate Mangala Angadi in Belagavi, had to quit midway as he developed uneasiness and fever.

The road show was planned from Shivaji Garden in Belagavi South Assembly constituency through prominent roads and to end at Mahatma Phule Road. However, Yediyurappa started feeling exhausted and left for the hotel after the roadshow had barely covered half way.

Sources in the CMO said Yediyurappa had mild fever two days ago and had undergone a Covid test before hitting the campaign trail. The test report had returned negative. After being checked by doctors and resting for some time in Belagavi, the CM left for Bengaluru by a regular 7.30 pm flight. P4

To chair meet on Covid

CM will rest for two days on Friday and Saturday, and chair an all-party meeting in Bengaluru on Sunday evening

Act soon on collegium suggestions, SC tells govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

EXPRESSING concern over the Centre's inordinate delay in responding to the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendations for appointment of judges, the apex court on Thursday sought a 'reasonable time frame' from the government for a decision.

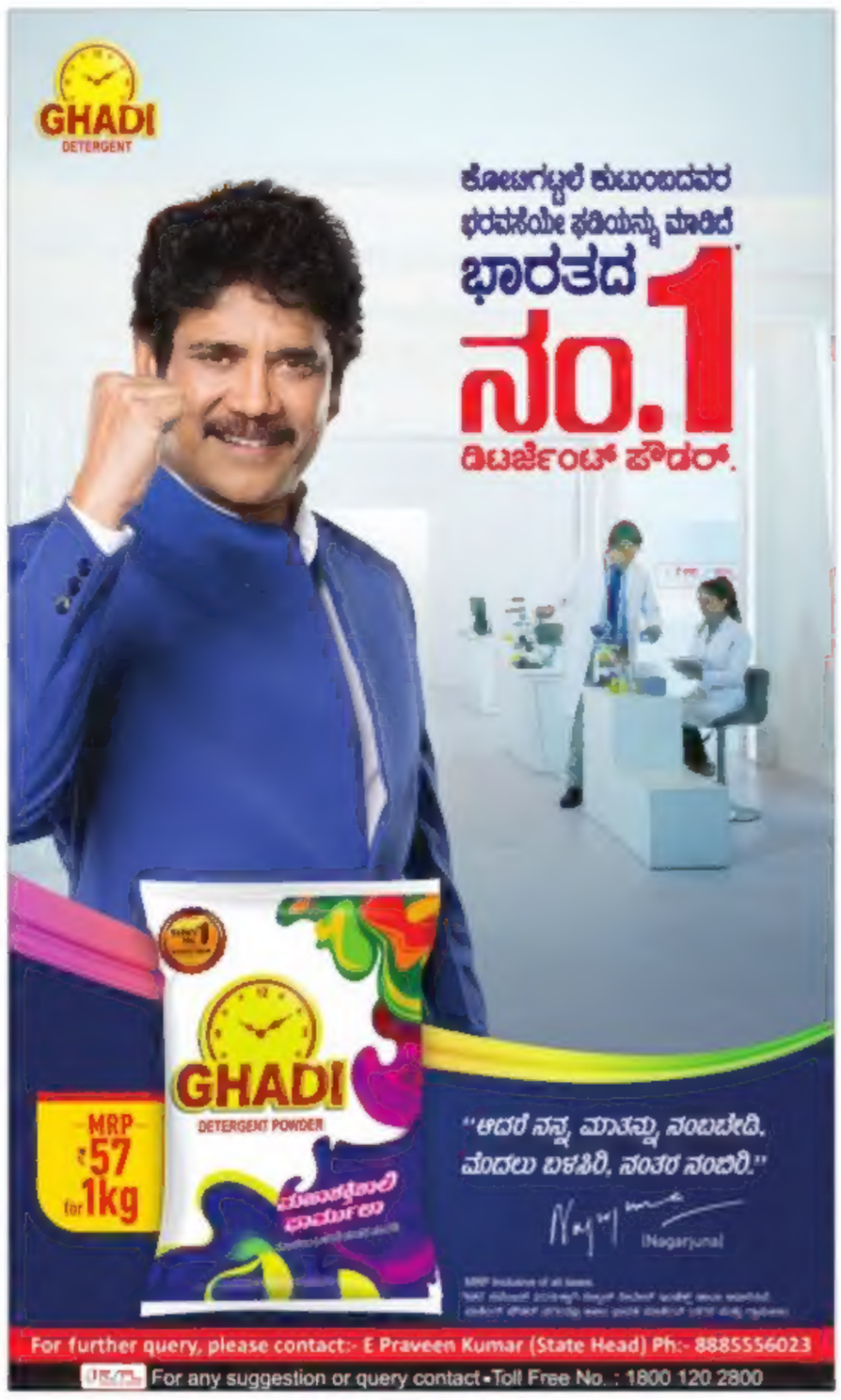
It pointed out that 10 names recommended by the Collegium were pending with the government for a year-and-half. Attorney General K K Venugopal said the government will take a decision within three months.

Reserving the order on a plea filed by NGO Lok Prahari seeking appointment of additional judges in high courts under Article 224A of the Constitution to reduce the pendency of cases, a bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde also flagged the rise in false complaints against judges. The bench said judges should not be made to feel insecure.

EXPRESS READ

NEET-PG postponed due to surge in cases

New Delhi: In view of the surge in Covid-19 cases, the National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test (Post-graduate), which was scheduled to be held on April 18, has been postponed, announced Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday.



BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
N.R. Square, Bengaluru – 560 002.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

BENGALURU COVID-19 HELPLINE 1912

Dear citizens of Bengaluru,

For any Covid-19 related assistance on the following subjects, please reach out to **BBMP Helpline number 1912.**

For Direct Assistance on
- Hospital Bed Blocking and Admission
- Covid Care Centre Bed Blocking and Admission
- BBMP Ambulance Facility
- Home Isolation Support

BBMP ZONAL 24/7 HELPLINE NUMBERS

East Zone	7411038024 / 9886496295
West Zone	080-68248454
South Zone	8431816718
Mahadevapura Zone	080-23010101/23010102
Bommanahalli Zone	8884666670
Yelahanka Zone	9480685964
R.R. Nagar Zone	080-28601050
Dasarahalli Zone	080-29590057/29635904/5906

Fever | Home Isolation | Covid Care Centre | Hospital | Recovery

For Information on Covid related queries, Covid Testing Centres, Covid Vaccination Centres, Medical Advice on Covid Symptoms call **APTHAMITHRA** Helpline **14410**

For emergency cases, Ambulance Facility and Inter Hospital Shifting of COVID-19 Patients call Helpline **108**

Early detection of Corona virus will help us stop its spread to others. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike seeks your cooperation to voluntarily come forward for testing if you have symptoms. Please do not be afraid of getting tested as majority of the people who get tested at early stages recover fast.

Join hands with BBMP to defeat Corona Virus

General public should compulsorily follow these guidelines and help in preventing the spread of COVID-19

Rakesh Singh, IAS
Administrator, BBMP

Gaurav Gupta, IAS
Chief Commissioner, BBMP

As is enshrined in our Constitution, to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.